

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00087 121035Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01

A-01 /057 W

----- 057769

P R 120938Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5927

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0087

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DISSOLUTION OF LAA: FUTURE OF USIS LAOS PROGRAM

REF: USIA 589 LOU

1. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LAA FOLLOWS THE CLOSURE OF TWO OTHER PRIVATE SCHOOLS. ALTHOUGH THE LAO GOVERNMENT'S ACTION WAS ARBITRARY, THE LAA IS REGISTERED AS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, WITH A SPECIFIC PROVISION IN ITS CONSTITUTION THAT "THE ASSOCIATION CAN BE DISSOLVED UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES BY THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT." LAA CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH EITHER THE FRENCH OR RUSSIAN CULTURAL CENTERS WHICH ARE PART OF COUNTRIES' OFFICIAL MISSIONS.

2. THE LEASE OF THE PROPERTY UPON WHICH THE LAA IS BUILT STATES "UPON EXPIRATION OF THIS LEASE THE BUILDINGS WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT."

3. UNDER THE LAA'S CONSTITUTION, THE POSSESSIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION "SHALL BE DISPOSED OF AS DETERMINED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00087 121035Z

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR OF THE KINGDOM OF LAOS AND

THE AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE BOARD..." AS REPORTED, THE MIN OF INTERIOR SEEMS TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THESE POSSESSIONS COME WITH THE BUILDING. IN LIGHT OF EARLIER DIFFICULTIES AND IN VIEW OF FACT THAT ITEMS COULD NOT BE EXPORTED, SOLD AT ANYTHING NEAR VALUE, OR EVEN STORED BY THE EMBASSY, MISSION VIEW IS THAT NO REPRESENTATIONS TO THE LAO BE MADE.

4. ON JULY 3, PGNU'S OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ACKNOWLEDGED USIS TO BE PART OF THE EMBASSY AND OCCUPIED FACILITIES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO POST'S CONTROL. THESE FACILITIES, INCLUDING POST'S LIBRARY OPERATED WITHOUT HARASSMENT UNTIL CLOSURE, DUE TO TERMINATION OF LEASE, ON DECEMBER 31.

5. UNDER NEW GOVERNMENT POST CANNOT EXPECT TO BE ACCORDED EQUAL TREATMENT WITH THAT GIVEN RUSSIAN INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EFFORT. (FRENCH ARE ALSO UNCERTAIN OF THEIR POSITION.) AT THE VERY LEAST THE PDRL HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR THAT WORKS AGAINST PERSONAL CONTACT WITH PAO, FREQUENTING BNC OR LIBRARY. AT THE TIME OF LAA'S DISSOLUTION ONLY 250 STUDENTS WERE STUDYING ENGLISH AND, IN JUDGMENT OF PAO AND DIRECTOR GLAUBERMAN, THERE WAS LITTLE PROSPECT FOR IMPROVEMENT.

6. NEVERTHELESS, INFORMATION PROGRAM CONTINUES AND, IN FACT, SEEMS TO BE RETURNING TO NORMAL. POST'S DISTRIBUTION CLERK, WHO DELIVERS USIS BULLETINS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES, HAD ADVISED PAO THAT WHEREAS SIX MONTHS AGO PEOPLE WERE RELUCTANT TO BE SEEN READING BULLETINS, HE IS AGAIN RECEIVING REQUESTS FROM OFFICIALS WHO WISHED TO BE ADDED TO THE RECIPIENT LIST. LAST WEEK THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE GAVE POST A REVISED DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR BOTH LAO AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE BULLETINS, SAID TO HAVE COME FROM THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. OTHER PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN LOU 6599 REMAIN VALID.

7. RECOMMEND THAT FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE ONE FSIO REMAIN ASSIGNED VIENTIANE BUT THAT ALL OPERATIONS BE BASED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00087 121035Z

WITHIN EMBASSY. THERE IS LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR RE-OPENING LIBRARY IN OUTSIDE LOCATION OR ATTEMPTING TO RECONSTITUTE BNC. PAO AND STAFF WILL HAVE TO SPEND NEXT FEW MONTHS IN TIME-CONSUMING JOB OF PUTTING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN PLACE, RENEWING DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS, UPGRADING THE LAO NEWS BULLETIN (FOR LATER PURPOSE POST IS HIRING AN ADDITIONAL TRANSLATOR), CONTINUE MONITORING LOCAL AND VOA OUTPUT, AND ATTEMPT TO PROGRAM FILMS

AND VTR IN OFFICERS' HOMES.

8. WITH AGENCY'S APPROVAL, POST WILL TEMPORARILY MAINTAIN STAFF LEVEL OF EIGHTEEN IN ORDER TO COMPLETE TASKS OUTLINED ABOVE. PRIOR TO JUNE, POST WILL ABOLISH POSITIONS OF A MINIMUM OF THREE EMPLOYEES, PROBABLY TWO DRIVERS AND LIBRARIAN, AND A MOPIX LIBRARIAN WILL RETIRE. SUBSEQUENTLY, WILL CONTINUE TO WORK AT BRINGING STAFF DOWN TO SUITABLE NUMBER CONSISTENT WITH LAO PROGRAM.

9. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER A LONG-TERM USIS INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EFFORT IN LAOS IS WORTHWHILE.
DAKS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPERTY PROTECTION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, NEGOTIATIONS, SCHOOLS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VIENTI00087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0457
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760164/aaaacfkq.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSOLUTION OF LAA: FUTURE OF USIS LAOS PROGRAM
TAGS: PFOR, LA, US, USIA, LAA-1, LAO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, PGNU
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006